Some Sensible and Weighty

EXPRESSIONS OF *William Barcroft*, ON HIS DEATH-BED: WITH

A Brief Account of his Life and Conversation, first written for the Satisfaction of his RELATIONS and some particular FRIENDS.

Now Published for a General Service.

To which is Added

Some EXPRESSIONS of his Brother *Thomas Barcroft*, on his Death-Bed.

ALSO

A Testimony of their Mother concerning them, and their Eldest Brother *Ambrose Barcroft*, Deceased.

DUBLIN: Printed by John Hay, in *Skinner-Row*, over against the *Tholsel*, 1711.

Some Serious and Weighty EXPRESSIONS

William Bayly's

ON HIS

DEATH-BED:

WITH

A Brief Account of his Life and Conversation, first written for the Satisfaction of his Relations and Friends, but now published for a General Benefit.

To which is Added

Some EXPRESSIONS of this Brother Thomas Barrett, on his Death-Bed.

ALSO

A Testimony of their Monthly Meeting concerning them, and their Elder Brother Joseph Bayly, deceased.

LONDON: Printed by John Sowle, in White-Hart-Court over against the Pump, 1711.

THE PREFACE.

Reader,

THE *following Dying Sayings were first collected for the Satisfaction of the* Relations *of the Deceased, and some particular* Friends; *but since they were committed to writing, several Friends, who have seen them, judging that it would be of Service to have them Printed, They are now Published and Recommended to the serious Consideration of those, who read them, earnestly desiring the Lord may be pleased to grant, that*

the good Advice and ſerious Exhortations contained in this ſhort Collection, may have a deep Impreſſion upon the Minds of Old and Young; and eſpecially that Young People may Remember their Creator in the days of their Youth; *and that They (with the more Aged) may conſider, how they are prepared for* Death, *which often comes ſuddenly both upon the Old and Young; and that All may be ſo wiſe as to remember their Latter End, whilſt the Lord is pleaſed to give them Time, that Death may not be a Terror when it comes; is the Deſire of thy*

Well-wiſhing Friend,

John Barcroft.

THE

The Introduction.

William Barcroft was the Son of *Ambroſe Barcroft* and *Jane* his Wife, and his Father dying while he and the reſt of the Children were but Young, they were under the care of their Mother and Relations, and had a Sober and Religious Education; and the Teſtimony that is given on this Occaſion concerning *William*, by thoſe who knew him from his Childhood, is, That he was of a very ſober Life and Converſation, and had learned the Fear of the Lord, which was a good Stay to his Mind, and as he grew up, inclined to be careful in Buſineſs, and laborious in the Creation. The Lord having been graciouſly pleaſed to give him a good Underſtanding both in the things of God and Men; he was very diligent in coming to *Meetings* for performing

Worſhip to Almighty God, and Watchful when there, being a true Waiter upon the Lord; He loved to ſeek Peace with God and Men, and was bleſſed with a great meaſure of Humility; as he grew near to his Latter End his Soul was ſo much affected with the tender Love and holy Light of the Lord Jeſus Chriſt, that he deſired to be with him for ever.

Although he had an affectionate Wife and ſweet Little Children, yet he deſired to give himſelf up to the Holy Arms of Divine Mercy, and to be at Reſt with the Redeemed of the Lord God and the Lamb for ever and ever.

Thomas Wilſon.

SOME

SOME Expressions

Of William Barcroft, *of* Ballybritton *in the* King's-County *in* Ireland, *on his Death-Bed, as near as they could be remembred.*

HE was taken very ill of the *Smal-Pox*, and Five days before his Departure he was in a violent Fit, and remained Speechless for some time; but when he recovered his Speech, was much concerned to see his Dear Wife and Mother-in-Law so troubled. And some Friends coming in, he lay in a Heavenly Frame for some time, (it seemed to those Friends who were about him, that the Lord had taken away his Pain) *and then said*, He was exceeding glad to see Friends, and that the

the Lords Love and Mercy was exceeding great; and this *(said he)* is beyond my Expectation, that I have mercy of the Lord to speak to you, *saying*, the Presence of the Lord at such a time as this made the Afflictions of his People easie; *adding*, what Advantage Friends have, in feeling and enjoying the Presence of the Lord, and that he was easie to leave this World, in hopes of a Glorious Time to come in the Kingdom of Eternal Peace.

And he spoke to his Mother-in-Law, *desiring her that she would* remember his dear Love to his Father-in-Law, Brothers, Sisters, Relations and Friends; and that they had bestowed their Daughter on him, and now he would bestow Her and his Children to the Lord, and to her tender Parents, and to his Uncle, who *(said he)* I am sure have been tender of me; *(adding)* that he often admired what they saw in him, that they should be so kind to him; desiring his Wife several times to give him up freely to the Lord, that he might go easie; *and said*, who knoweth but there may be a Service in my going now; *and desired her*, to bring up her Children, in the Fear of the Lord, and in Plainness of Habit and Speech, and in Lowliness, and whether they have Little or Much, it will be well enough. *And further*

said

said to her, Truſt thou on the Lord, and keep near to Friends, and it will be well with thee; his Wife being then in a melted frame of Heart, ſaid, *I do truſt in the Lord, and give thee up to him.* Which ſeemed to give him much Satisfaction. He called his Brother-in-Law *James Inman* to him, *and warned him*, to be of a ſavory Life, and to love and fear the Lord, and to be careful to keep out of Pride and Height, and out of bad Company; (*and ſaid*) be ſure walk low and humble, and be obedient to thy Parents, for I never knew any that were diſobedient to Parents do well; and be ſure tell thy Brother *Joſeph* to walk low and humble, and if ever you expect Joy and Comfort be obedient to your Mother; for if at any time I did grieve my Mother, I was troubled and ſorry for it; and tell thy Siſter *Martha* to have a care of that High City, and to be ſure to keep Low and Humble; (*ſaying*) there was great danger in that City, for Youth to be led away from the Lord; but if they did ſerve the Lord carefully, it would be well with them. *And he deſired a Friend that was preſent* to tell his Brother *Thomas* to be of a ſavory Life and Converſation amongſt People, and to be a good Example in the Place where he lived, and that whatever he did, he ſhould have an eye to the Lord, and not

to be high-minded, but walk Low and Humble. And from a Child (*said he*) I always loved the Company of good honest Friends, which I was always the better for, and though I have had weary Nights and Days, yet through all I had still an eye to the Lord, (*adding*) That it was a brave thing to have nothing to do but to Die. *And further said to his Wife*, My Dear, comfort thy self in that it will be well with me; *and to some Friends that stood by he said*, How many precious Heavenly *Meetings* we have had, and it hath been often a great Trouble to me, to see how Dull and Sleepy some have been, and others Unconcerned, both Old and Young in such a Glorious Day as this is, where the Lord hath appeared so eminently amongst us, and have said many times of late, I thought I saw a more Glorious Day approaching than ever, but whether it was in this Life or no I cannot tell. *But he seemed to think it would be in that which was to come, and further said*, Oh! Is not this a precious, comfortable thing, to have this sweet Opportunity; *adding that*, he did not care how many Young People were there, and that he would have been glad, if all the *Meeting* and Several Others were there; wishing that all the High and Lofty Ones would look back to see what they were.

All

All which being ſpoken in a good ſenſe of the Lords Heavenly Preſence, did mightily tender Friends Hearts who were by, and ended in Prayer and Thankſgiving to Him that lives for ever. And the Lords bowing, heart-melting, heavenly Preſence did ſo affect the Hearts of Friends who were there, that gave ground of Hope, that the Lord hath ſhewed him mercy, and called him to Glory and Peace for ever; and though it be our great Loſs to part with ſo dear a Friend, yet it his great Gain. And when he took his Leave of Friends, he ſaid, *he was very eaſy*, and ſo continued quiet moſtly, till his Departure, which was on the Fifth Day of the Sixth Month, 1709. being in the Twenty Eighth Year of his Age.

Some EXPRESSIONS *of* Thomas Barcroft *on his Death-Bed.*

Thomas Barcroft being likewiſe taken ill of the ſame Diſtemper, *viz*, the *Small-Pox*, upon the Fifteenth of the Eleventh Month, 1709. his Uncle *John Barcroft* and his Wife, were ſitting by him, and perceived him to be under exerciſe of Mind, for his inward Peace with the Lord; and after

ſome

ſome time his Uncle enquired of him concerning his inward Condition, and he anſwered, *as followeth*, Sometimes I think I ſhall Recover, and other times I think I ſhall not; but my deſire is, if I Recover, to improve my Time. *And ſaid*, in the time of this Concern I find moſt Eaſe in ſubmitting my ſelf unto the Will of God, leſt that if I ſhould have Time given, I might not make good Improvement of it. I never wronged any Body knowingly, nor acted any groſs thing; but that which is my greateſt trouble, is, that I did not live ſo ſavory a Life and Converſation as I ſhould have done, and gave way to Company that was hurtful to me, which if I live, I hope to warn others of; and when ever you reproved me for ſuch things, I was always glad of it, but did not take that notice of it, that I now ſee I ought to have done; *for that which ſeemed but little to me then, now ſeems a great deal*; but if I ſhould live and not improve my Time, it's better for me to go now, for I am in hopes there is Mercy for me. He Departed this Life the Eighteenth of the Eleventh Month, 1709. being in the Twenty Third Year of his Age.

The

The *TESTIMONY of* Jane Grible, *concerning her Three Sons* Ambroſe, William *and* Thomas Barcroft's.

I Have great Reaſon to admire the Lord's Goodneſs to me and my dear Children, for he hath been a Husband to me, and a Father to them, ſince the time my former Husband and their Father *Ambroſe Barcroft* was removed by Death from us; beyond what we could have expected, who is for ever worthy to be Reverenced and Obeyed by us all. And now I can ſay as I had great Comfort in them when we were all together: So I felt that which gave me Satisfaction and Comfort in parting with all my Three Sons, *viz. Ambroſe, William* and *Thomas*, who were all taken away in the *Small-Pox*.

Firſt, Dear *Ambroſe*, who departed this Life the Tenth Month, 1704. and at his firſt Sickning was taken violently ill; notwithſtanding his Thoughts were fixed heavenwards, which appeared by many Expreſſions, uttered by him in the time of his Sickneſs,

Sickneſs, and the day before he Departed, as I ſat by his Bed ſide, his Heart and Mouth were filled with Prayers, and Praiſes to the Lord, for his manifold Favours and Mercies towards him, and the Lords living Preſence did accompany us together, which made me willing to give him up, having cauſe to believe that he was going unto Reſt for evermore.

My Dear Son *William* departed this Life at the Time before-mentioned. In the time of his Sickneſs I was much comforted, and reſigned to the Lord's Will, believing he was fit to Live and alſo to Die, which ſeveral Friends were witneſſes of, which were preſent when he ſpoke to the Conditions of both Young and Old, which he delivered with much Fervency of Spirit.

My Dear Son *Thomas* departed this Life as before-related, which did greatly ſurpriſe me at firſt, and came very near me, until I conſidered the Lord had done it, and who can ſay to him, *What do'ſt thou?* He gives and takes at his pleaſure, Bleſſed be His Great Name for evermore. Now that which takes away Sorrowing, and brings Satisfaction, is Hopes of his ever Well-being; for I felt the Lord's comfortable Preſence with him

him on his ſick Bed, which was a Comfort both to him and me. I need not mention the Words ſpoke by him, becauſe already writ: But I do earneſtly deſire for my ſelf, and the reſt of my Children, that we and every one, who may read, or hear them read, may lay them to heart, and prepare for our latter end, ſeeing none knows how ſoon it may be.

And Oh! I could heartily deſire, that All were more concerned for their Childrens Everlaſting Well-being, than for Worldly Treaſure for them, and truſt in the Lord, who feeds the Ravens, cloths the Lillies, and takes care for thoſe, who put their Truſt and Confidence in Him, who is worthy to be Honoured, Worſhipped and Obeyed for ever.

Jane Gribble.

The END.

THE END.